CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Fermentation~~ A fermentation process for the preparation of ~~L-amino acids~~ a desired L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-valine, and L-lysine, ~~especially L-threonine,~~ wherein the following steps are carried out:

a) fermentation ~~of the microorganisms of the family Enterobacteriaceae~~ of an *E.coli* strain in a fermentation broth for producing the desired L-amino acid, ~~in which microorganisms at least the pckA gene or nucleotide sequences coding thereof are attenuated and, in particular, switched off~~ wherein the endogenous gene encoding phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) carboxykinase (*pck*A gene) of *E.coli* is attenuated,

b) ~~enrichment of the L-amino acid in the medium or in the bacterial cells~~ concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration of said L-amino acids in the broth and *E.coli* , and

c) isolation of the L-amino acid, constituents of the fermentation broth and the biomass ~~in its entirety or portions thereof optionally being isolated as a solid product together with the L-amino acid~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~microorganisms are used in which~~ other genes of the biosynthetic pathway of the desired L-amino acid of E. coli are additionally amplified.

3. Canceled

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the expression of the ~~polynucleotide(s) coding for the~~ *pck*A gene is attenuated ~~and, in particular, switched off~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the regulatory and/or catalytic properties of the ~~polypeptide (enzyme protein) coded for by the polynucleotide pckA~~ polypeptide encoded by the *pck*A gene are reduced.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~microorganisms of the family Enterobacteriaceae in which~~ one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

6.1 the thrABC operon coding for aspartate kinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase,

~~6.2~~ (a) the pyc gene coding for pyruvate carboxylase,

~~6.3~~ (b) the pps gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate synthase,

~~6.4~~ (c) the ppc gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase,

~~6.5~~ (d) the pntA and pntB genes coding for transhydrogenase,

~~6.6~~ (e) the rhtB gene for homoserine resistance, ~~and~~

~~6.7~~ (f) the rhtC gene for threonine resistance, and

~~6.8~~ (g) the gdhA gene coding for glutamate dehydrogenase

are ~~simultaneously amplified and, in particular,~~ overexpressed ~~are fermented~~ during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~microorganisms of the family Enterobacteriaceae in which~~ one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

~~7.1~~ (a) the tdh gene coding for threonine dehydrogenase,

~~7.2~~ (b) the mdh gene coding for malate dehydrogenase,

~~7.3~~ (c) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) yjfA, and

~~7.4~~ (d) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) ytfP,

are attenuated ~~and, in particular, switched off,~~ or the expression is reduced~~, are fermented~~ during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claims 1 to ~~8~~ 7, wherein L-isoleucine, L-valine, L-lysine, or L-threonine is prepared.

10-27. (Canceled)